

Please substitute the following paragraph for the third paragraph on page 1 of the specification.

Page 1, paragraph 3 (TWICE AMENDED)

B²

However, because of the necessity of manual asptic removal and recovery of the MC powder from the tray using a scraper after completion of freeze-drying, the conventional method has the drawbacks described below. (1) MC powder adhesion to the tray necessitates the removal of MC powder using a scraper at the time of its recovery. (2) Because scraping is conducted manually, and because it takes a relatively long time to recover the MC, the MC is exposed to the environment for an extended period of time, resulting in the constant risk of contamination with microorganisms etc., an aspect undesirable from the viewpoint of assurance of sterility. Also, because MC preparations need water content control, such long environmental exposure poses a risk from the viewpoint of

Please substitute the following paragraph for the second paragraph on page 2 of the specification.

Page 2, paragraph 2 (AMENDED)

B³

Against this background there has been a demand for the development of a production method for a solid sustained-release preparation that enables easy recovery of the solid sustained-release preparation after freeze-drying at high recovery rates, with short environmental exposure time and reduced risk for production and introduction of foreign substances.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the second paragraph on page 22 of the specification.

Page 22, paragraph 2 (TWICE AMENDED)

B4 When the freeze-drying container (shelf temperature) is maintained at 0° C or below (preferably, -40° C to 0° C, more preferably, -20° C to 0° C, further preferably, -10° C to 0° C), the temperature is maintained for more than about 0.1 hours, preferably for about 1 hour to about 500 hours, more preferably for about 5 hours to about 100 hours in order to complete the sublimation of frozen water in the freeze-drying container.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the second paragraph on page 25 of the specification.

Page 25, paragraph 2 (AMENDED)

B5 (3) Because of obviation of the necessity of MC powders removal using a scraper, there is no risk of production and introduction of foreign substances due to friction between the tray and scraper.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the second paragraph on page 28 of the specification.

Page 28, paragraph 2 (AMENDED)

B6 More specifically, when an LH-RH antagonist represented by general formula [Ia] or an LH-RH agonist represented by general formula [Ib], as described above, is used as the biologically active peptide, the sustained-release preparation (solid) of the present invention can be used as therapeutic/prophylactic agents for hormone-dependent diseases, including prostatic cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, metrofibroma, precocious puberty, breast cancer, gallbladder cancer, uterine cervical cancer, chronic lymphatic leukemia, chronic

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/600,744